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ISSUE 126 | March 2015

Leys Market scoops award

Katie Chester, Christine McDermott and Paul Layden receiving their certificate from awards sponsors Jenny Fox and Louise Tucker of the Monument Community Trust

BY JOHN CHARLTON

THE Leys Community Market was named as the Best New Community Group at the Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA) Awards, beating off stiff competition from groups from across the county.

The award is a clear sign of the dedication and great efforts of all those involved in the market to make it such a success.

The Leys Community Market was set up by a small group of volunteers in 2012 and provides local residents the opportunity to buy local fresh and affordable food; enables local start-up businesses and community groups to market their services and helps residents acquire and share skills such as healthy cooking, bike repair, and DIY through skills sharing and volunteering.

The market will be organising a community meal on Saturday 28 February 12.30pm at The Barn, Nightingale Avenue in Greater Leys. Watch this space for dates and details for markets that are planned for the rest of 2015.

■ **For more details and to book your place please contact Christine on 07914 395619 or email leyscommunitymarket@yahoo.com**

Blackbird Leys councillor to become Mayor

CITY Councillor Rae Humberstone is set to become the next Lord Mayor of Oxford.

Mr Humberstone is the current Sheriff and will take up his new post later in the year.

Mr Humberstone is one of the city councillors for the Blackbird Leys ward.

He will take over from Oxford's Mohammed Abbasi.

Labour councillor Colin Cook will be his deputy, and Labour councillor Sajjad Malik will become Sheriff of Oxford.

Get friendly at tea time with the Clockhouse. See Page 5

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Leys News

ISSUE 126 **March 2015**

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Iconic Spindleberry statue restored

BY ASHLEY THOMAS

VOLUNTEERS have restored a statue to its former glory during a routine clean up operation.

The group of volunteers were cleaning out Spindleberry pond when they discovered the beak from the reserve's blackbird statue that had previously been broken off by vandals.

In March last year four wooden carved statues were installed in Spindleberry Nature Reserve as part of the regeneration project funded by WREN. Soon after the statues were installed they were defaced by vandals who broke off the blackbird's beak and the deer's ears and antlers.

The Conservation Volunteers lead by Monique Van Assouw recovered the beak from the bottom of the pond while cleaning up the area.

Monique said: "We just happened to come across it; it was coincidental that we found it."

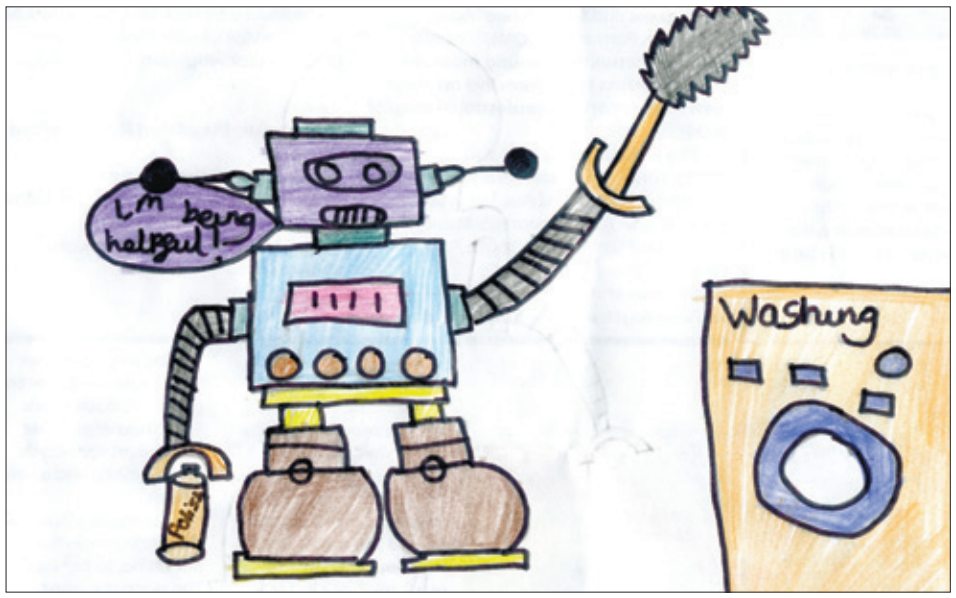
Monique worked with young people from the CDI project to come up with the idea to install the statues and information boards.

She added: "It's fantastic that the blackbird has been repaired."

The deer in the reserve is still missing its ears and antlers and the artist cannot repair it as he is overseas. If anyone is a talented woodworker and interested in making new ears and antlers please contact Monique.

The Conservation Volunteers meet on Wednesday mornings to do conservation work and litter picking. If anyone would like to join in then please come along. It's free to join and you can get involved in loads of activities from arts and crafts and yoga to upcycling and tree planting.

■ **If you would like to volunteer then you can contact Monique on blackbird-leys@tcv.org.uk.**



COMPETITION WINNERS

The winners of last month's Children's drawing competition are Jessica (*above*), from Greater Leys, and Jodi (*below*) age 9, from Blackbird Leys. They both win a fantastic 67 piece art and craft set. For this month's drawing competition turn to page 12.

EDITOR'S LETTER

HELLO!

I am now quite confident that spring is actually just around the corner. Across the Leys there are definite signs of bulbs popping up in gardens, it is no longer dark at 4pm and people seem to be emerging from their winter hibernation.

And what better way to see the new season in than by celebrating a great piece of news for our community market! At the OCVA awards, the market was a winner and you can read all about it on on our front page.

Our fashion guru Natalie gives us some great ideas for brightening up our spring wardrobes on page 8.

FASHION ON THE LEYS
BY NATALIE GIDLEY
Upgrade your denim for spring

If any of you are planning some new learning experiences, Ruskin College is on tour and will be at various venues across the Leys. Check out the details on page 13 for more information.

Have a great month.

Best wishes

Sarah

Thanks to Ruskin College for sponsoring this page.
If you are interested in studying at Ruskin College please call 01865 759600
or visit www.ruskin.ac.uk

RuskinCollege Oxford

Reaching new heights at BLAP

THE Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground has a new addition and it is already proving to be very popular.

The in ground trampoline was bought with grants from the Oxfordshire County Council Chill Out Fund and support from Councilor Steve Curran.

Sue Price from BLAP said: "The new trampoline has already provided hours of fun. We are very lucky that trampoline coach friend of BLAP, Elspeth Priestly, came to help the children get the most from the trampoline and safety plans were put in place. It is a welcome addition to the many facilities at Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground."

BLAP is open every day after school from 3pm–5.30pm for 8–13-year-olds. There are lots of activities including arts and crafts, den making, gardening, cooking and using all the outside facilities. Maybe the best facility is just the chance to make new friends and have fun.

It is also open during half terms and the Easter and Summer holidays from 10am–4pm (9am–5pm for working parents.) The hall is also available to hire for children's parties.

■ **For more details please contact Joey Phillips blap76@yahoo.co.uk or 07530933690 01865 236646**

The power of the sisterhood at CDI

A PROJECT to empower young women has launched at the Leys CDI with the aim of creating opportunities to change the way they are perceived.

The Battlefield of the Mind is designed to support the holistic health of the girls and young women that take part. The aims are to promote self-reflection so that they see themselves in a positive way, which creates opportunities for them to voice their concerns and change the way they are perceived or treated.

Marsha Jackson from the CDI said: "At the Leys CDI it is important that, as we look to support the development and improvement of young people's lives, we create projects that work directly to meet specific needs as they arise. The Battlefield of the Mind is just another reflection of this.

"We are successfully working with a group of young women to explore self-image and create a safe space for shared learning and empowerment through different activities like music knowledge, media control, group games and self-esteem issues. We will be covering confidence building, social exclusion, mind over matter, health, media, community and other topics which all impact on our daily lives."

The feedback from the project has been really positive so far with girls saying there is a sense of sisterhood. One of those taking part said: "I now understand how life works and life isn't about looks or fashion it's about love and care."

Marsha added: "I like how the young women work together and co-operate empowering their young minds and sprits."

The Battlefield of the Mind takes place every Thursday from 4pm–7pm at the CDI.

■ **For further information please contact Judith Luckonomoi on 01865 395927**

Leys Community Chest

THE local Communities and Neighbourhoods Team is looking for local people to sit on a grant panel for a new funding opportunity that is available to residents of The Leys. The panel will grant funding of up to £150 for small community groups or a group of residents made up of two or more people from The Leys for activities and events that benefit the community.

No experience is necessary as free training and on-going support will be provided. The time commitment would be to read through the applications and give your recommendation once a month. The first panel will meet on 27 April.

This is a great opportunity for local people to be involved in the process of granting money to local groups and events.

■ **For more information, please contact the Communities and Neighbourhoods Team on 01865 252828 or at communities@oxford.gov.uk.**

Have fun and raise funds for Mabel Prichard School

MABEL Prichard School is trying to raise money to buy new playground equipment as the current swing and roundabout are unsuitable for many of the children with physical difficulties.

The fundraising day will take place on Saturday, 28 February from 12 noon at the Roman Way Social Club, Horspath Road Cowley. Entry is £2 for adults, entry for children is free.

There will be various tables selling bric-a-brac, cards, a tombola, face painting and a cake sale. The Strawberry Fayre Majorettes will perform, and there will also be a disco and a fabulous raffle with some great prizes.

■ **For more info, contact Deana Barrett 01865 777878.**

DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS

Stella Gathenya continues her new column contrasting the differences between living here in the UK with life in her native Africa.

For the love of the outdoors

THE wet season had ended, the lengthening days brought back the dry dust and the strong sunlight gradually faded the grass. Within weeks the hills would begin to lose their green lushness until by midsummer all the grass would be golden and brown. The dry leaves would cover the earth making a crunch noise every time someone stepped on them. I loved that feeling under my feet, I still do. Every season had its special kind of beauty.

As we walked through the thick tea bushes the smell of fresh air filtered through my nostrils. From where I was standing I could see the leaves spread expansively like a thick green carpet. My little hands worked faster and faster, determination on my face, even though I could not fathom why I had to do this. I was still wondering if it was at all worth my sweat, this was my parents' idea of school holidays.

Maybe they considered this a leisure activity. It was the norm, that every holiday I had to do this. Nevertheless I carried on, humming to myself as my mind drifted away, leaving my hands to subconsciously carry on with the task ahead. Tea was an important source of revenue to us. Nobody talked to the other, time was of the essence. The more bags you filled, the better.

It was soon time to go. The ladies started to depart; I hastened my pace as I tried to catch up with them. In the distance I could see the thick forest in the horizon that was the next stop. My rope rested well in the sack I carried in my hand. The journey home would not be so pleasant with a load of firewood balancing on my back. It had to be done though, or it meant no fire, whatever was left over would be sold. We soon got to our stop and quickly got to work. 'Thump, thump,' was the noise that filled the air as axe met with wood while the ladies seemed to work in spontaneous synchrony.

It would have been a sight to behold from a spectator's point of view. Grandma threw her pile of wood on one corner and impatiently signed that I start arranging them on the rope. I did this with complete precision, I had mastered this art, it came as second nature to me. I needed to be quick, grandma did not entertain sluggishness. Once I was done, I swung the bundle on my back with her help. Destination, home.

Mummy you're not listening to me! My daughter's high pitched voice jolted me back to reality as she tried to get my attention. I was not ignoring her. I had immersed myself in this captivating novel. The more I read on, the harder it was to detach myself from it. This book had brought back memories of my school holidays. As my eyes perused the pages, my mind was in a world of its own. I was that young girl again; familiar smells and sounds came rushing back, a case of déjà vu. I could not help wondering what had become of those ladies. See, my kids had earlier gone to Shotover with their dad and had recounted how much fun it had been.

They could not get enough of it and would not stop talking about it. After being subjected to what seemed like an eternity of listening to every miniscule detail, she finally popped the question.

She wanted to know when they would be going to Rectory Farm. Who would have thought that what I considered as a chore back then would have been considered as a pleasure now. Needless to say, they would be going, otherwise I would not hear the end of it.

This is why I will never tire of saying that being a parent is a never ending learning curve. Parenthood immerses you in situations that you would never have considered. I always tell my children of my experiences as a child.

This is because I want them to be part of my childhood, if that makes any sense. I want them to realise how different life was for me and how it is for them, and, yes, I would like them to encounter some of what I did. Just so they could have a little taste of it. It could be as simple as sharing my stories with them.

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POLICE UPDATE

Tower blocks remain hot spot for patrols say police

THE tower blocks in Blackbird Leys will remain on the neighbourhood policing team's radar, after complaints from residents.

PCSO Barry Sheehan said: "We have received reports again that people are congregating on the top floors of the tower blocks. This area is one we regularly patrol. One resident called us to say that they were aware someone was hanging around on the top floor at Evenlode Tower, and we found an 18-year-old woman in the stairwell with drug paraphernalia out on the window still. She handed over a bag of herbal cannabis and was subsequently issued with a cannabis street caution. The towers will remain a hot spot for our team to patrol regularly."

The team along with support from other officers also executed a warrant in Blay Close. During a search of a 52-year-old man from the premises an amount of class 'A' drugs were found.

A search of the premises turned up more class 'A' drugs and some stolen items. The man was arrested and charged for possession with intent to supply class 'A' drugs and arrested for handling stolen goods.

He is currently on bail awaiting a court date.

The Neighbourhood team asks any residents who have any information or suspect an individual, a group or a property to be involved in some form of drugs offences please contact the neighbourhood team via the 24-hour Police Enquiry Centre on 101, or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Warning following thefts from vans

THERE has been a spate of thefts from motor vehicles recently and Police say the targets are mostly commercial vehicles where the main objective is to steal power tools.
By following some simple crime reduction advice you can help keep your tools safe.
Do not store expensive tools in your van, especially overnight. Install an alarm on your vehicle

Put a notice on your vehicle stating no valuables are stored in this van overnight. Keep a record of all serial numbers for your tools, equipment, and sat nav.

Consider investing in a lockable tool storage box that is fixed to the floor of your van.

Lights out on Garsington Road

LOCAL Police carried out a bicycle light operation on the Garsington Road.

PCSO Barry Sheehan said: "The basis of the operation was to stop cyclists who did not have lights on their bikes. Any cyclist stopped without lights was issued with a £50 penalty notice. During this 90 minute operation 14 people were stopped and issued with a fine."

Get friendly at tea time with the Clockhouse

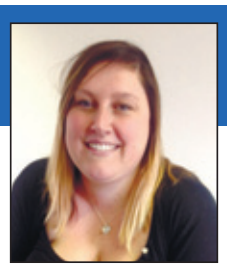
ON MONDAY afternoons, the Clockhouse is the new place to be for a friendly cup of tea, and the chance to meet up with others.

Local community group Leys CDI is launching a new tea-time social club for over-50s at the Clockhouse, in Long Ground, Greater Leys, starting Monday 2 March, from 1.30 to 3.30pm.

The club will happen every Monday afternoon in school term-times. All Leys over-50s are very welcome. The cost is only £1 per session including refreshments. Sally Meachim, Leys CDI Clockhouse Project worker, said: "If you'd like to get together with other people for a cup of tea and a chat once a week, we would love to see you! There'll be scrabble and dominoes available if you feel like a game – or just enjoy a good old chin-wag. Please mention the club to older friends and neighbours, especially anyone who perhaps doesn't get out and about so much these days. We want to reach and involve as many people as possible."

The Clockhouse Project can help with transport to reach the group, if you are an older person living on the Leys and have mobility difficulties. There is also lots of help available if, like most of us, you find coming on your own somewhere for the first time a bit daunting. The project can arrange for someone to welcome you, or even accompany you from home, the first time you visit.

■ **For more details please phone Sally at Leys CDI Clockhouse Project, on 01865 395908.**



LEYS MUM

An alternative look at parenting with **Lauraine Dineen**

WAITING for children to finish school gives a woman a lot of time to think. Time to think about what she is going to make for dinner. Time to think if her shoes have exceeded their expiration date. Time to think about what happened on last night's Emmerdale. And, unfortunately, time to think about more unpleasant things, like what if an aeroplane fell out of the sky onto her, leaving her husband to raise her two boys solo.

And while I am sure my husband would be fine if left to his own devices there are a lot of details I worry about. Like, who is going to teach them about how to treat a lady? Or how to make a pair of trousers stretch for six days without a wash? And what about the house? Who is going to remember to change the Air Wicks. Who will remember where the vacuum cleaner is kept?

Sadly, I realise that my husband has no idea what I do here all day, let alone appreciates it.

Dirty socks do not just magically appear in the washing basket, our meals do not make themselves, the boys do not wipe their own bottoms. To help him (and maybe some other non-default parents) out, I have compiled a list of ten requests I would like to make should I have an unexpected meeting with my maker. It probably will not hold any water legally, but I know you all will see to it that my wishes are carried out. Well, you all and my Mother-In-Law – the only other person on the planet who truly understands the particulars of living with my husband.

Dear James,

1. You must at least make an attempt to force our children to eat three meals a day. Use any and all tactics necessary. Bribery with sweets and threats of deportation usually work. It is harder than you might think and our kids are extremely sneaky. Once I found an entire cheese sandwich stuffed into Harry's boot. Meals do not all have to be well balanced but Pringles and a can of diet coke do not count as a meal, or even a snack.

2. The brushing of the teeth is not optional. Twice a day, WITH TOOTHPASTE. Again, sneaky kids. Feel the toothbrush, sniff the breath. I will be damned if my children will start college with dentures.

3. While we are on the subject of hygiene, baths at least every other day. With soap. Or at least take them to the pool and shove a bar of Dove down their backs.

4. Hair must be brushed. Once I stayed a week with my grandparents who could not see very well and my Mum had to cut a rat's nest out of my hair when I got home. The rats were grateful to be put into the bin so they could have a cleaner place to live. Every once in a while, check for lice and woodland creatures.

5. When someone tells you they have to poo, believe them.

6. Always put the toilet roll on so the paper hangs to the front and not the back.

7. Limit the children's TV. I would prefer if they only watch educational shows, but I know how you feel about children's programmes. Just do not let them watch those ghost shows you love so much unless you want them sleeping on your floor for the next 20 years.

8. Naps trump everything. Meetings. Doctor appointments. Natural disasters. Do your best to get them to "rest their eyes" as a thunderstorm rips the roof off. Remember – The Exorcist was based on a true story… of a young girl who did not get enough sleep.

9. Bills. Pay them. When moving into our home, I reviewed our credit histories and I had an unexpected awakening about how you felt about paying bills before we met. Please pay the bills in a timely enough fashion to avoid tarnishing my near-perfect credit. Or at least having the electricity cut off, giving our children a serious competitive disadvantage as they fight with the rats over food scraps in the dark.

10. Now, let's move onto me. I have talked about my final wishes before, and I sincerely hope you were kidding when you told me that you think funerals are a huge waste of money and plan to dump my body into the river. I want a slide show. A good one. With music. I want my initials printed onto little napkins. And, if you can arrange it, a celebrity guest appearance. Lets just say I would not be upset if Peter Andre were there to say a few words.

And lastly, I expect that at some point you will venture out of the house, and possibly even look at, or *winces* talk to another woman. Just remember that I am watching you. At all times. Always. Oh, what was that noise coming from the cupboard? She will say. And you will know it is me. Standing there. Watching. Judging her. But please, do not let that stop you from moving on.

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Thanks to the Blackbird Leys Parish Council for sponsoring this page

For Parish Council information please call 01865 716943 or go to www.leysonline.net

Get creative this spring

DO YOU enjoy painting and drawing? Or would you like to start? Then go along to Potters Court Art Group on Thursday 12 and Thursday 26 March, from 2 – 4 pm.

Friendly art tutor Adrienne Brunton will be there, with tips and help on drawing and sketching, or you are welcome to do your own thing with watercolour/acrylic painting.

Potters Court Art Group meets every other Thursday in Potters Court at Robin Place, Greater Leys.

The sketching sessions are running with support from Oxford City Council and Catalyst Housing, via Leys CDI Clockhouse Project for Over-50s.

They are open to all Leys area residents over 50 and only cost £1 including art materials and refreshments. No experience needed – beginners are very welcome. Come and be inspired – you never know what talents you'll discover!

■ **Contact Sally at Leys CDI Clockhouse Project on 01865 395908 for more details.**

THE WILDLIFE GARDEN

With Stuart Mabbutt

The days are getting longer at last

NO WORRIES about what to write about in this wildlife gardening article this time, plenty of ideas are flowing. Ideas are flowing as I am looking to soon publish two eBooks and paperbacks about wildlife gardening.

Creativity flows, especially as the days get longer as we advance through the early months of the year.People new to wildlife gardening, often ask me, in the middle of all that new found vigour, "What actually is wildlife gardening".

Well put simply, in its rawest form, it's an altered mind-set. It's as much about psychology or social conditioning as it is about gardening and the necessities' within its practices.

Our obsession with controlling our gardens, is a reflection of our obsession of controlling the world around us.To change the world around us, requires effort to change something within ourselves first. Question why you are cutting your grass once a week, and why you cut your privet hedge within an inch of its life, eight times a year? Does it need doing? Is it really 'untidy' or is that just our perspective after generations if not millennia of conditioning?

That said, wildlife gardeners and the gardens they are the custodians of don't have to look much different to a conventional manicured garden. It doesn't have to be untidy. Mind you, if one person sees something as untidy, and another doesn't, does untidiness actually exist? Or is it just perspective again?

Note the word there, custodian? Wildlife gardeners often see the bigger picture and see themselves as a custodian as a result.

Ok, an article there with which to challenge yourselves with. The aim, to get you questioning why you garden and why you do it the way you do. It might be different for all of us!

Happy Gardening

Join Marmalade for social change

AN EVENT to encourage and develop ideas for social change will take place in Oxford in April.

Marmalade 2015, formerly known as OxfordJam will run from Monday 13 – Friday 17 April at the Old Fire Station and other venues in Oxford. It is a week-long conversation about ideas for social change, made up of events run by inspired individuals and independent organisations.

Experts, entrepreneurs and charities can create or attend events, which will be free and run parallel to the Skoll World Forum, providing a chance for both established up-and-coming organisations to make themselves heard in fun, participatory events.

Just visit http://marmalade.io to see what's happening, or https://marmalade.attending.io to create your own event, and register to attend.

Collections are mini-conferences being held during the week, with different events on the same theme being 'collected' by organisers.

Wednesday 14 April sees Crisis exploring Food and Social Change. On Thursday 16 April Arts Council England's chair Sir Peter Bazalgette and other arts professionals join Arts at the Old Fire Station for Art and MONEY – where's the CHANGE?. On the same day UnLtd, the foundation for social entrepreneurs, collect events about social enterprise.

Other contributors include Hub Ventures, the family of ventures that includes Student Hubs, Worthwhile and the Turl Street Kitchen. They will present a guided tour of the past, present and future of the sector they have grown up in, to discuss what they have learned, where social entrepreneurship seems to be heading, and the challenges and opportunities for the future.

■ **Anyone who wants to hold an event at the Old Fire Station should create their event on https://marmalade.attending.io then visit www.oldfirestation.org.uk/marmalade. Events are free to attend, and those who use spaces will be asked to make a donation to cover costs.**

MARMALADE AT THE OLD FIRE STATION

Blackbird Leys Parish Council

Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday 31 March, 7pm,
in the Jack Argent Room, BBL Community Centre.

Parish Councillors

Gordon Roper (Chair), Ann Booker (Vice Chair), Chris Hatton, Daniel Jones, Jadine-Francis Kennedy, Brian Lester, Cyril Martin, Sheila Smith and Pat Stannard.

For further details telephone

(9am–5pm) 07754 271831

Send mail to

Parish Council, c/o Nicky Clargo,
181 Wroslyn Road, Freeland, Witney, Oxon OX29 8AL

For further details of Parish Council news, meetings, minutes and other activities in Blackbird Leys please go to the community website:

www.leysonline.net

DO YOU WANT TO BE A JOURNALIST AND WORK IN THE MEDIA?

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SPECIAL FEATURE: Does Bollywood encourage harassment?

BY ZENAIRA KHAN

IN HOBART, Australia, 32-year-old Sandesh Baliga recently escaped a jail term after his lawyer successfully argued that his harassment of women with unwanted advances and texts was 'quite normal behaviour' for Indian men, as the Bollywood film industry perpetuates the idea that if pursued hard enough, a woman will eventually give in to a man's advances. As a result, he was unable to appreciate the seriousness of his behaviour.

Although this is quite a controversial assertion, given Bollywood's influence on Indian culture, it does have some weight. At any South Asian wedding, you will see women wearing garments modelled after those worn by Bollywood celebrities in films or at public events, and guests partying to the soundtracks of current blockbusters. The Indian fashion industry capitalises on Bollywood's power to influence consumers by launching their clothes and jewellery through the movies, and using Bollywood A-listers to endorse their brands.

If Bollywood has the power to influence day-to-day life in such a way, one has to question the effects (if any) that Bollywood tropes have on men's behaviour towards women, in a country where Eve Teasing is prevalent and shocking incidents of rape and sexual assault are frequently hitting the headlines.

Rachel Dwyer, a professor in Indian cinema at SOAS, University of London, points out that the "often relentless" nature of the Bollywood leading man's pursuit can be seen through decades of examples, which she examines in her book; Bollywood's India. As early as the 1960s, heartthrobs such as Shammi Kapoor "would flirt and dance in front of the heroine, who initially rejected him but was won over when she found out his real worth".

The Bollywood Hero's peacocking is still a common trope in Indian cinema but the line between wooing and stalking is becoming increasingly blurred. In 2013, Dhanush starred as Kundan in 'Raanjhanaa' (Beloved One). Kundan stalks the object of his affections, Zoya Haider and even slits his wrists when she rejects him. After breaking up her wedding and causing the death of her fiancé, he eventually dies whilst still pursuing her, saying he will be reborn to love Zoya. Despite his harassment and destruction of Zoya's life, Kundan is not the villain. He is the film's Hero.

Dwyer remarks that "While Hindi cinema is not realistic, some may see this behavior, which is admired by viewers, as acceptable, and follow it in real life where practices such as 'Eve-teasing' (sexual harassment) are widespread."

Film maker Anand L Rai, who directed Raanjhanaa, was keen to defend his work, saying his movie did not justify stalking as "it showed the hero trying to persuade his childhood love with genuine emotions."

However, he does acknowledge Bollywood's influence on Indian culture and agrees that directors and producers must exercise caution. "There are some boys who do get influenced by Bollywood. But they shouldn't take it seriously, as it's just a part of storytelling. It is also important for writers and directors to apply self-censorship when depicting one-sided love."

But should Bollywood writers and directors apply self-censorship, or should the onus quite rightly be on men to stop perpetrating these crimes? A combination of the two is perhaps the right answer. Whilst Bollywood's influence on every day life and its potential as an agent of positive social change cannot be denied, greater efforts need to be made to stamp out Eve Teasing by educating men that this sort of conduct is completely unacceptable.

Indian women are already making it clear to would-be harassers that their unwanted attention will not be tolerated or excused, with the emergence of a recent trend to name-and-shame sex offenders, using the power of smartphones and social media. Earlier this week, a young woman used her smartphone to film a video and publicly shame a man sitting behind her on an IndiGo flight, who had repeatedly tried to grope her between the seats. The video, posted to Youtube, went viral, adding to growing anger and disgust over the prevalence of public sexual harassment in India.

Since the rape and fatal assault of a 23-year-old female in Delhi in 2012, the Indian government has tightened laws for crimes against women and introduced tougher penalties, but many Indian women say they don't feel any safer, according to a survey conducted by the Hindustan Times.

Of the 2,257 13-55 year-old women surveyed, 91% said the city hadn't become any safer for them since 2012, and a shocking 97% said they had faced some form of sexual harassment.

WRITE FOR US

Would you like to write for our special feature section? If you have a topic that you feel would be of interest to our readers, or have a personal experience you would like to share please email editor@leysnews.co.uk

GET THRIFTY

BY BETH SPEICH

Looking good for less

I'M SURE you know that beauty products can be very expensive. But have you ever thought about making your own? I'm going to share with you a few products that you can make very quickly and easily.

What's more, you will probably have most of - if not all - the ingredients already at home. They are so cheap to make, you will know exactly what's in them, and they're fun!

First up is a very useful product at this time of year – a lip scrub. I have personally never bought one but since making this little pot, I use it all the time – it's much better at tackling dry lips than lip balm or Vaseline on its own.

All you need to do is mix together brown sugar into a teaspoon of olive oil and a few drops of vanilla extract (for flavour) until you have the consistency you desire. You can store it in a little empty container if you have one. Try experimenting with different flavours; you could add some Aloe Vera gel, honey, or coconut oil.

For your face, it's always a nice treat to use a face mask; but they can be expensive. Did you know you can very easily make your own – and they are excellent for your skin. The more natural ingredients you put on your skin, the better. Try this simple mask for oily skin: mash one ripe banana with a tablespoon each of runny honey and lemon juice. It's a strange thing to do, but slap it on to your face and wash off after 15 minutes for glowing skin.

When you feel like having a good pamper session, you must try a homemade body scrub. They are often better than shop-bought!

Provided you do not have sensitive skin, try this "mud scrub" (which is actually sugar and coffee): mix 1 cup of sugar (white or brown) with 5 tablespoons of coffee granules. Gradually add oil of any type until the scrub is at the consistency you like. You can also add a teaspoon or two of fragrances from your kitchen cupboard – vanilla and peppermint essences work well.

While you're looking in your kitchen cupboard, you might want to grab some bicarbonate of soda. Mix a small amount of it into over-worked hair when shampooing to tackle product build up!

And finally when it's time to remove your make-up, don't splash out on expensive removers – simply use baby oil and a cotton wool pad.

It will make your face oily but use it only on your eyes and I find it does a better job of removing waterproof mascara than shop-bought eye make-up removers.

FASHION ON THE LEYS

BY NATALIE GIDLEY

Upgrade your denim for spring

DENIM is going to be everywhere this spring and that means on your top, bottom and everywhere in between. The great thing about denim is that everyone looks good in it and this season there are so many styles to choose from.

Designers went crazy with denim on the spring/summer 2015 catwalks and it features heavily in almost every key trend for the season. The nineties thing is showing no sign of dying out any time soon and that means spaghetti strap tops, denim jackets, button details and ripped jeans with bleached out knees. Cowboy and western details were also huge at shows like Gucci and as well as seeing those influencing all over denim this spring, you'll find a heck of a lot of tan suede and fringing on everything from jackets to boots and bags.

Take it from style maven Alexa Chung who at the beginning of the year launched a denim line with US premium denim brand AG Jeans. In her eponymous collection you'll find shirt dresses, big frill details, shorts and dungarees as well as chic and simple cotton tees and sweaters.

As lovely as Alexa's collection is, it's also pretty darn expensive so here are my top high street picks to update your new season denim!

Next month, I'll be carrying on the jean theme and I'll be on a mission to find the perfect pair of jeans for those of us blessed with ample curves!

1. White denim midi skirt, Dorothy Perkins
2. Blue denim sundress, Miss Selfridge
3. Denim shirt, Tu at Sainsburys
4. Denim palm tree print makeup bag, Paperchase
5. Strappy bleached denim vest top, Primark
6. Two-tone denim pencil skirt, Simply Be
7. Striped sailor top, Florence and Fred at Tesco
8. Flat –form trainer shoes, Matalan
9. Necklace, George at ASDA

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How to get the most out of Social Media

Subjects include:
- Why use Twitter and FaceBook
- Staying safe online
- Sharing news and photos
- Finding friends
- Individual and Group accounts

Friday 27th February, 9.30am until 12.15pm

Computer Room, Blackbird Leys Community Centre, Blackbird Leys Road, Blackbird Leys, OX4 6HW

Booking is required:
by phone 07801 686 027 or
by email Blackbird-Leys@tcv.org.uk

Join in, feel good

This project is supported by

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Every week at The Leys Children's Centre March and April 2015

Mondays

PEEP for Babies
12.30 pm – 1.30 pm

Stay and Play for Babies, dads, mums & carers
1.45 pm – 2.45 pm
Contact Mikko Enticknap 01865 773263

The Listening Centre
5.30 pm – 9.00 pm
Phone 01865 794794

Tuesdays

PEEP for Babies
9.30 am – 10.30 am

Stay and Play with lunch (small fee)
11.00 am -1.30 pm
includes

Speech and Language Drop In
11.30 am -12.30 pm

Lone Parent Advisor
Last Tuesday of month
9.40 am – 3.40 pm

Dad's Group
1.45 pm – 3.30 pm

The Listening Centre
5.30 pm – 9.00 pm

Wednesdays

Midwife Clinic
For pregnant and feeding mums. Post natal, baby checks, support and advice 12.30 pm – 2.30 pm
Phone for an appointment 01865 773263

Job Club
Every other Wednesday
1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

The Breastfeeding Café
12.30 pm – 2.00 pm
Contact Camille Kalaja

New Baby Group
For parents and children birth to 12 months
1.00 pm – 2.30 pm
Contact Mikko Enticknap

The Listening Centre
5.30 pm – 9.00 pm

Thursdays

Infant Feeding Talks
For pregnant women
Second Thursday every month
11.00 am – 12.00 am
To book an appointment with Camille Kalaja phone 01865 773263

Ante-Natal Drop-in
10.00 am – 11.00 pm

Fridays

Oxford Family Mediation Drop-In
9.30 am – 11.30 am

Stay and Play with lunch (small fee)
11.00 am – 2.00 pm

Saturdays

Dad's Group
First Saturday every month
10.30 am – 12.30 pm
Contact Carla 01865 773263/07776997937 or Glen 01865 773263

For information about all PEEP groups in the area contact 01865 395145

Various courses are available during the week. For more information contact Anne Wells on 01865 779615 or 716482

Windale

Stay and Play
Monday 9.00 am – 11.00 am
Thursday 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

Time for Toddlers
9.30 am – 11.00 am
Contact Catherine Westbury-Cook on 01865 773263

The Dovecote

PEEP groups
Monday and Wednesday
9.30 am – 10.30 am
Thursday 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm
Contact PEEP

Leys Health Centre

Baby Massage
Tuesday
For babies from 8 weeks old on the Leys. Contact Linda Picton on 01865 788688

Baby PEEP
Thursday
1.30pm – 2.30pm
Contact PEEP

Oxfordshire County Council · Children's Centres for families in Oxfordshire · Sure Start

www.theleyschildrenscentre.org

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All My Sons

IT IS 1947 and America is still haunted by the ghosts of World War Two. Joe Keller, a successful self-made businessman, is living the American dream. With friends and neighbours gathering in his backyard, the idyll is clouded by one thing: his son is missing in action, presumed dead by all but Joe's wife, Kate. And when the past starts to catch up with Joe, the truth reveals devastating consequences.

This epic, moving play was Arthur Miller's first success, establishing him as a leading voice in American theatre. A searing investigation of honesty, guilt and the corrupting power of greed, All My Sons is a powerful reminder of the need for social responsibility.

Talawa is the UK's primary Black-led touring theatre company. Following the success of Moon on a Rainbow Shawl, it returns to the Playhouse with this powerhouse play during Miller's centenary year, directed by its Artistic Director, Michael Buffong.

Oxford Playhouse – Tuesday 17 to Saturday 21 March
Times: Tuesday to Thursday and Saturday evenings: 7.30pm, Fri: 8pm, Thu and Sat matinees 2.30pm
Tickets: £11 to £26.50 discounts available
Age guideline: 14+
Tickets are available from the Ticket Office on 01865 305305 or book online at www.oxfordplayhouse.com

BOOK REVIEW
By **Jane Yates**

Baba Yaga's Daughter and Other Tales of the Old Races

Audio book by: C. E. Murphy
Narrated by: Anna Parker-Naples
Length: 8 hrs and 42 mins
Unabridged Audiobook

THIS is an enchanted tale that has been skilfully brought to life by Anna's colourful narration. The plot is not straight forward at all but several stories spun together in a delightful mix.

Many parts to the story stretch over different continents and many generations. In it Murphy writes of truths, half-truths, folklore and legions. I liked how she wrote the female characters with strong leads and they were both brave and fearful. Not meek or in any way subservient, which is often the case in some old fashioned tales.

The two main male characters, the dragonlord Janx and the dashing vampire Eliseo Daisani are both powerful in their own rights and make an uneasy friendship. However both of them are never without a woman in their lives to complete or complicate them.

Being a child still at heart, I loved the witches best, Baba Yaga, and her chicken leg hut that could not cross running water and the daughter who had no name. Anna gave Russian inflections to their lines as she read them, and made them seam formidable pair, I certainly would not like to meet Baba Yaga in the dark. Anna wide range of voices forced me to stop listening at one point and to check there was indeed only one narrator. How she jumped from a Russian voice to an American in the same paragraph was mesmerising.

Along with vampires, there is an interesting an skilfully written female vampire hunter. I felt a bit like I was exploring a secret world. I was transfixed by the dragons who could take on the form of humans alongside tales of gargoyles and silkies.

Not only were all the magical creatures in this story beautifully written, but also humans characters, who's lives became intertwined with the old races intriguing and fairy like way. There were interesting settings, old fashioned speakeasy's to modern day settings.

This is an enchanted tale, but I am glad I listened to it rather than reading it as its dripped though with long and tasty descriptions, and having them read out to you gives you more of a chance to absorb and admire them.

This is the first time I have come across Murphy's writing and I would really look forward to reading/listening to some more of her fantastic written work.

A magical listen, Anna has a skilful reading of the wonderful characters was both relaxing and hugely enjoyable. I am looking forward to listening to other Audiobook's that Anna has narrated. Especially looking forward to her upcoming reading of the Audiobook, 'Garden.

Museum of Oxford is 40

THE Museum of Oxford launched a year-long series of events to mark its 40th anniversary. Organised around the theme of 40, the celebrations will see the people of Oxford actively involved and adding their own stamp to the museum's collections.

Opened in 1975, the museum has intrigued locals and visitors to the city with the story of Oxford and how it has developed. It brings together a diverse collection – from Roman pottery to marmalade jars – and weaves the story of the city from the prehistoric to the modern day.

City Councillor Christine Simm, Board Member for Culture and Communities, said: "The Museum of Oxford has been a cherished part of Oxford for 40 years. This year will see innovative events that build on the collections that reflect the people who make Oxford, Oxford."

Euton Daley, Project Co-ordinator for The Museum of Oxford's 40th Anniversary, added: "I am delighted to be working with the museum to deliver such an interactive series of events. We are all looking forward to hearing the stories that people have to share."

The events started with a family poetry workshop led by commissioned writer-in-residence, Paul Lyalls, who has been a poet-in-residence at the Roald Dahl Museum. He has also been an Olympic poet for London 2012 and star of BBC's Big Slam poetry house.

Throughout the anniversary year, Paul will be working with a range of commissioned partners in schools and with community groups alongside Oxford Visual Arts Development Agency (OVADA), Oxford Contemporary Music (OCM) and Oxford Playhouse, to generate stories, artistic commissions and future collection items for the Museum of Oxford.

One of the key projects for the year is the 40:40 project, which showcases forty things for forty years. This project invites people to bring along items or suggest ideas of things that remind them of Oxford. It could be pictures, objects, films or just a story.

The aim of the project is to capture 40 stories from people who live in Oxford, about Oxford and add them to the museum's collection. The final 40 'objects' will make up an exhibition and be part of events leading up to the finale event in December 2015. The number of submissions is not restricted so everyone is welcome to contribute.

The 40:40 – Forty Things for Forty Years project is supported by The Arts Council England and is our look into the past, present and future of the city of Oxford and its culture and heritage.

■ **For more information on the events listed for the 40th Anniversary year visit: www.oxford.gov.uk/museumofoxford**

EVENTS

Oxford Art Society Members' Exhibition
An Exhibition of members work, paintings, prints and sculptures. Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's. 10am – 5pm, Free. Until 14 March.
www.oxfordartsociety.org.uk

Garments by Feng Ho Arts
Exhibition of garments at the Old Fire Station by award-winning ethical designer Feng Ho. 10am – 5pm, Free.
Friday 6 March to Saturday 25 April.

The Oxford International Women's Festival
Saturday 28 February – Saturday 14 March.
oxfordinternationalwomensfestival.co.uk/

Postcard Art Project
MCS Arts Festival Oxford
Community art project and exhibition. Open to all. Contact Hannah Clark for further details, 01865 242191
www.artsfestivaloxford.org

Oxford Folk Weekend
17 – 19 April. The city's community folk festival. Folk Weekend welcomes YOU in to our local folk scene, with a unique mix of concerts, ceilidhs, and sessions showcasing the best of Oxfordshire's talent alongside nationally-acclaimed artists and performers.
www.folkweekendoxford.co.uk

Screen Tea
At the Story Museum, Pembroke Street, Oxford OX1 1BP. A film screening of new and classic films. See website for film details. Sundays, 2pm. £2
www.storymuseum.org.uk
01865 790050

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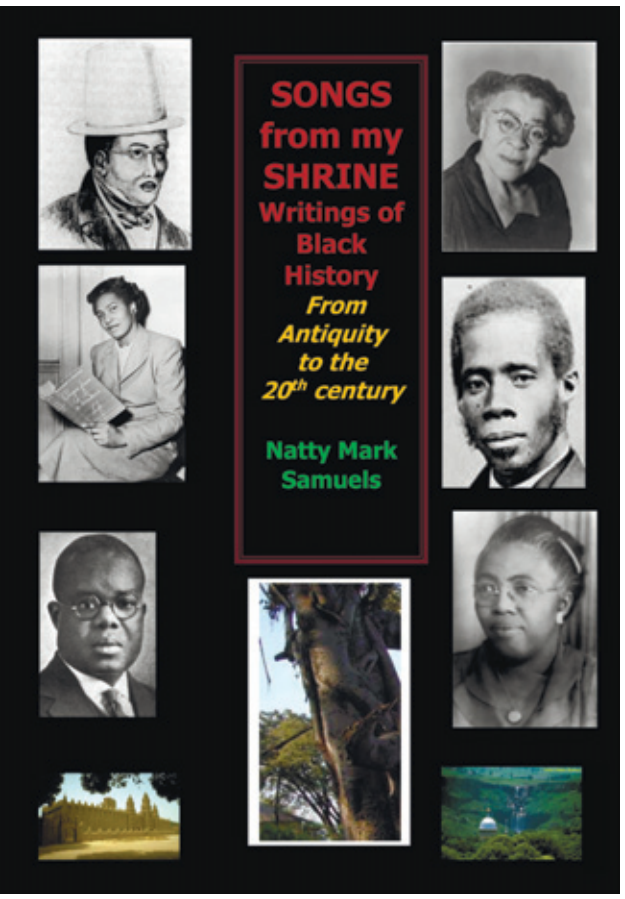

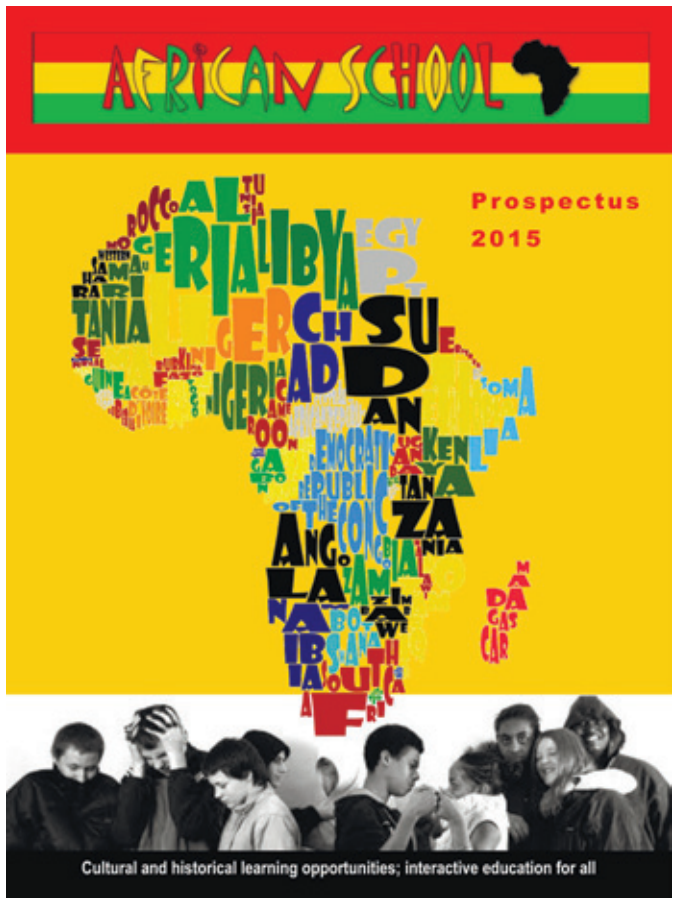

Good prospects for African School

OXFORD'S African School has published its first ever course prospectus.

The school offers nine accredited courses covering a wide variety of subjects about sub-Saharan Africa such as centralised statehood, early black journalism, West African Islamic scholarship and medieval Ethiopian Christianity.

The African School has an inclusive approach to learning and courses can be tailored towards groups of all ages from eight upwards as well as a range of abilities. The school has worked with Oxfordshire schools, colleges and youth clubs, and is delivering a course at Oxford Spires Academy.

African School founder Natty Mark Samuels said: "I'm at my happiest when teaching. It feels good, being a channel to knowledge. African School has an interactive essence – weaving education with enjoyment."

From 29 March, a collection of writings by Natty Mark Samuels will be available. The publisher is Ackhi Press, and the publication is a fundraising venture for Ackhi, entitled Songs From My Shrine.

The book is about black history and all sales will be donated to Ackhi; in support of its vital role in celebrating black history and heritage, locally as well as internationally.

Children's Drawing Competition!

DRAW a picture of what people will wear in the future in the space provided.

The prize for the two most creative entries is a 67 piece art and craft set complete with wooden carry case.

Send your entries by 15 March.

Send your entries to:
Children's Drawing Competition,
Leys News, 26 Kingfisher Green,
Greater Leys, Oxford OX4 7BX

Name: .....

Age: .....

Name of parent or guardian:

.....

Phone number:

.....

Address: .....

.....

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Surviving Winter

OXFORDSHIRE Community Foundation's annual Surviving Winter appeal, part of a national initiative to help older and vulnerable people facing poverty and isolation, has received a welcome boost from celebrities including Dame Helen Mirren, Sir Michael Parkinson and Sir Terry Wogan.

This comes as the appeal reaches the 50 per cent mark towards a target of £20,000 – a shortfall when compared to last year's campaign.

Surviving Winter started as a vehicle to recycle Winter Fuel Payments that people had received but did not feel that they needed, but quickly expanded to take in donations from people of all ages, and of all amounts, which are directed to the local groups supporting vulnerable people in winter.

Donations are used to fund local charities and community groups that befriend elderly people, check they are coping and encourage them to be active, as well as groups that provide life-saving services such as food banks, or that help people claim benefits they did not know they were able to claim, helping them with their winter fuel bills.

Oxfordshire Community Foundation has already started working with Age UK Oxfordshire, the CAB and the Oxford Diocese to set up collaborative working that will really make a difference.

Dame Helen Mirren said: "It's hard to think of the millions of people struggling to keep even one room warm as the cold weather sets in. Surviving Winter is a simple yet effective campaign which helps many people in fuel poverty – 23,000 across the UK last year – and provides everything from hot water bottles to hot dinners and help with fuel bills. I know that any donation goes straight to those in need, no matter what size or amount."

Sir Michael Parkinson said: "I fully support the Surviving Winter Campaign to assist the elderly and the vulnerable to keep warm and healthy during our cold winters. If you are in a position to do so, please help by donating all or part of your Winter Fuel Payment to this very worthwhile cause."

■ **For those wanting to help people in their local community, they can visit Oxfordshire Community Foundation's fundraising page at www.justgiving.com/SurvivingWinter2014-15.**

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

Thanks to Oxford Brookes University for sponsoring this page. If you are interested in studying at Oxford Brookes please call Sobia Afridi on 01865 484826

Leys Learning

Ruskin College on tour

RUSKIN College is coming to Blackbird Leys with a series of short, interesting and engaging learning opportunities all for free! Each one off course is open to anyone aged over 19, and people can sign up for one or more courses during the week.

The courses will take place at local venues such as CDI's Glow Hall, The IT Hub at the community centre and The Barn. Ruskin College Vice Principle Paul Di-Felice said: "This is a great opportunity to learn something new in a relaxed and friendly environment."

Monday 13 April
Rants, Rhymes and Raps Creative Writing Workshop.
1 – 3pm at The Glow Hall.

Tuesday 14 April
Introduction to Youth and Community Work.
A fun way to look at what youth and community work is all about' covering aspects of anti-oppressive practice.
1 – 3pm at The Glow Hall.

Tuesday 14 April
Family History Workshop.
6 – 9pm at The IT Hub.

Wednesday 15 April
Intro to Access.
This session will provide you with information on the two Access to Higher Education Diploma programmes available at Ruskin College (Access to HE Diploma in Health Professions and Access to HE Diploma in Social Science) including entry requirements, an overview of the application process and a few taster exercises based on modules from the two diploma courses. Potential topics include: Sociology, Health Studies, Human Biology, Research Methods, Social Work, Psychology, Social Care, and much more.
10am – 1pm at the Glow Hall.

Wednesday 15 April
Presentation skills.
6 – 9pm at The IT Hub.

Thursday 16 April
Civil Liberties and Human Rights from Freedom of Information and accessing/exercising rights to issues around civil liberties, police, and current issues
10am – 1pm at The Barn.

Thursday 16 April
Digital Literacy – online identity, i.e. what employers can see about people online, and how this can affect employment etc. but can look at other ideas if you like too.
6 – 9pm at The IT Hub.

Friday 17 April
Wonderful Women.
Come along to this session to find out more about what makes inspirational women, to be inspired, and to think about how to become an inspirational woman. All women welcome at this fun session focussed on exploring and thinking about our lives, the lives of other women and the world in general.
10am – 1pm at The Barn.

■ **To book a place or places on any of these events please contact Sasha East on 0791 770 4320 or email seast@ruskin.ac.uk or pick up an enrolment form from Blackbird Leys Community Centre.**

Study at Ruskin College

WANT to study for a health care qualification at university or get ready to become a social worker or youth worker?

Ruskin College, Oxford is excited to announce that in September they will be running an Access to Higher Education Diploma in Health Care Professions. This course is ideal for anyone who wants to take health related courses at university but do not have the required entry qualifications.

It has been designed for students who have been away from studying for some time. On the course you will study Health Studies, Human Biology, Sociology, Health Social Care, Social Policy and Academic Skills.

Ruskin also offers an Access to Higher Education Diploma in Social Science. On this course you will cover an introduction to social work and to youth and community work. The course includes Social Studies, Sociology, Issues of Race, Gender and Class, Applied Psychology and Research Methods. The Diploma allows individuals to progress to careers in related fields or to stay at Ruskin and study for a degree.

The Ruskin College Access to HE Diploma in Social Science offers the opportunity to begin studying for a career in social work, youth and community work, counselling, education in the voluntary sector or other professional settings.

Both courses are offered on a full-time basis over one academic year. There is funding available to help with living costs (subject to eligibility).

To find out more about either of these courses or the degree level courses that we offer (A levels and GCSE's not necessarily required) go along to a drop in open evening on Friday 6 March from 6-8pm or the college open day on Friday 1 May from 11am.

■ **To book a place or for more information contact Hannah Jones on 01865 759604 or hjones@ruskin.ac.uk**

FREE workshops and open days at Leys News

Leys News

Are you looking for a new challenge?

Leys News is always keen to hear from anyone who is interested in getting involved with our community newspapers, and in 2015 we will be organising a series of workshops and open days at our offices in Kingfisher Green.

The workshops are open to everyone in the community who would like to know more about volunteering as a community journalist or photographer or anyone who is keen to find out more about business development and office management.

Refreshments and all materials will be provided.

To find out more and to register for the workshops please email editor@leysnews.co.uk
We look forward to seeing you!

Ruskin College Oxford

Follow Ruskin College Oxford

Open Days @Ruskin in 2015

- Friday 30th January - 11am start
- Friday 6th March - 6pm - 8pm
- Friday 1st May - 11am start
- Friday 29th May - 11am start
- Saturday 20th June - 11am start
- Wednesday 29th July - 11am - 1pm

ILTUS Taster Days @Ruskin in 2015

- International Labour and Trade Union Studies: Saturday 21st February - 11am-2pm
- International Labour and Trade Union Studies: Saturday 18th April - 11am-2pm
- International Labour and Trade Union Studies: Saturday 9th May - 11am-2pm
- International Labour and Trade Union Studies: Saturday 6th June - 11am-2pm

Come and see what we are all about and why not sample our Café while your here.
Open:
Monday - Friday 8am - 7pm
Saturday 8:30am - 2pm
Sunday 8:30am - 11am
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner also available. Come and have a look.

To book a place on an open day, contact Hannah Jones on:
T: 01865 759604
E: hjones@ruskin.ac.uk

To book a place on one of the International Labour and Trade Union Studies taster days, contact Caroline Holmes on:
T: 01865 759608
E: cholmes@ruskin.ac.uk

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☎ 01865 338050

CHILDMINDING

Arar Childminding
☎ 07417 439520
ararchildminding@gmail.com

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☎ 01865 775849

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57 Between Towns Road, OX4 3LR.
☎ 01865 777137

Cafe Spice
98/98a The Parade, Rose Hill, OX4 4HX
☎ 01865 747575
info@cafespiceoxford.co.uk

Papa John's Pizza
80 Rose Hill, Oxford, OX4 4HS.
☎ 01865 402050

Pizza Hut
3 Courtlands Rd, Rose Hill,
OX4 4HS.
☎ 01865 236116

Pizza Polo
34 Cowley Rd, Littlemore,
OX4 4LD.
☎ 01865 425630

FLORISTS

Joe Austin
174 Cowley Road, OX4 6NQ.
☎ 01865 792037

GARDENS

The Garden
99–100 The Market, OX1 3YD.
☎ 01865 240709

Acorn Nursery
Stadhampton, Oxford.
☎ 01865 891663

Oxford Garden Centres
South Hinksey, OX1 5AR.
☎ 01865 326066

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☎ 01865 714111

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Suthern-By-Pass, Oxford.
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What's on in the Leys

A QUICK GUIDE TO WHAT'S AVAILABLE LOCALLY.

If you have a service or event you'd like to include, please ring 01865 711756

ADVICE

■ **Agnes Smith Advice Centre**
96 Blackbird Leys Road. Gives free independent and impartial debt advice and counselling.
Drop-in sessions: Mondays, 10am–12pm and Fridays, 10am–12pm.
Also in the Farmhouse,
Tues and Thurs, 10am–12pm.
☎ 01865 770206

■ **Young People's Jobshop**
Every Wednesday, 1.30–3pm at the Early Intervention Blackbird Leys Young People Centre. Ages 16–19.
Speak to an advisor for FREE one-to-one advice.

■ **Leys Job Club**
Free support for anyone who would like help with learning or training, or would like to consider a new job, or taking up work for the first time.
Sessions are held at the Youth and Community Centre every Wednesday from 10am–12pm. Just drop in.
Other job club sessions are held in the Children's Centre, please call for details.
☎ Call or text, 0793 1400 108

CHILDREN

■ **New Baby Group Inc. Breastfeeding Café**
Wednesdays, 1pm–2.30pm at Leys Children's Centre, Cuddesdon Corner.
☎ Contact Mikko Enticknap for Baby Group and Camille Kalaja for Breastfeeding Café
01865 773263

■ **Blackbird Leys Youth Centre**
Blackbird Leys Road. Variety of activities and advice for young people.
☎ 01865 772886.

■ **Maluchy group**
For Polish speaking families with children ages 0–5 years. Saturday, 10.00am–11.30am, at Pegasus School.
☎ Agata, 07874 187 704

■ **Brownies**
Holy Family Church Hall.
☎ Jennifer Pleass, 07886 757338
bblbrownies@gmail.com

■ **35th Oxford Scout Group**
☎ Duncan Bowler,
0776 6293353
duncan@35thoxford.com

■ **Little Doves Stay & Play**
Thursdays (term time), 9am–12pm, at Dovecote Family Drop-in Room.

■ **Oxfordshire (The Rifles) Battalion Army Cadet Force**
Thursdays, 7.30–9.30pm at Sandy Lane West. Boys and girls ages 13 to 18.
☎ 01869 259681

■ **Mother and Toddler Bounce**
Trampoline Sessions suitable for mothers and toddlers held on Thursdays, 10.30–11.30am. Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre.
☎ Fiona, 07891 419793

■ **Strawbery Fayre Majorettes**
Training every Wednesday at the Barn in Nightingale Avenue, Greater Leys, 7.00–9.15pm.
☎ Eleen Filer, 01865 717781

Dovecote Afterschool Club
Runs Tuesday to Thursday, 3.30–5.15pm, £1.30 per session.
☎ 01865 712299
and 07974 234661

BLAP Afterschool Club
Outdoor and indoor activities for yrs 8–13 in a structured environment.
3.00–5.30pm.
£1 per session (five sessions £4)
☎ 07530933690
and 01865 236646
blap76@yahoo.co.uk

■ **Tiny Tots Majorettes**
(For ages 4–7yrs) At the Barn in Nightingale Avenue, Wednesdays, from 6–6.45pm. £3.
New members welcome.
☎ Eleen Filer, 01865 717781

■ **Teenage Rounders Class**
Tuesdays, 4–5pm
£1.20. For 14–18 year olds Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre

■ **Rainbows**
For girls aged 5–7 years.
Fridays during term time, 5.30–6.30pm, at the Holy Family Church Hall on Cuddesdon Way.
☎ Alexandra, 07804 500313

■ **Air Cadets**
Mon and Wed, 7.30–9.30pm,
Sandy Lane West.
Boys and girls aged 12½ to 20 years.
☎ 01865 777055
oc.2210@aircadets.org

EDUCATION

Blackbird Leys Library
Cuddesdon Way.
Books, DVDs, audio books, use of computers for adults and children, photocopying etc.
Opening times:
Mon, Wed, Thur: 9am–12pm and 1.30–5pm
Tue: 9am–12pm
Sat: 9.30am–12.30pm
Friday Closed.
☎ 01865 770403

■ **Able Centre**
Cuddesdon Way. Free courses in Maths and English.
☎ Nicky, 01865 728688

■ **Blitz IT Courses**
IT for beginners, internet, email, file management, PC maintenance and more.
☎ 01865 806453

LEISURE

■ **Irish dancing**
Sacred Heart Hall. Weds and Thurs, 5pm.

■ **Boxing Club**
Tues and Thurs 7.30–9.00pm,
at Youth Centre, Blackbird Leys Rd.
☎ Tony Gibson, 01865 432995

■ **The Oxford Community Choir**
All welcome.
☎ Hannah, 07512 364367
hannahsings@gmail.com

■ **Blackbird Leys Bowls Club**
Cuddesdon Way. The Club is looking for new members. Open night every Thursday from 6pm.
☎ David Buckwell, 01865 881735
or Gordon Roper, 01865 361047

■ **Girls Football (15+)**
Mondays, 6.30pm. FREE.
☎ Marc Fleckney, 07920 463623
Mafleckney@gmail.com

■ **Indoor Bowls Club**
Sandy Lane West. Club is looking for new members and invites men, women, boys and girls of all ages and abilities to come along and try out indoor bowls.
Call 01865 775891
or email oxbowls1@yahoo.co.uk

BBL Leisure Centre
Zumba: Mondays, 10.30–11.30am
Body Balance: Tuesdays, 11–12pm
Legs, Bums, Tums: Wednesdays, 10.15–11.15am
Body Pump: Thursdays, 9.30–10.30am
Pilates: Thursdays, 10.30–11.30am
Boxercise: Fridays, 10.30–11.30am
Overs 50s indoor cycling: Mondays, 11.30–12.15pm
☎ 01865 467020

BBL Swimming Pool
Blackbird Leys Road.
General swimming times are:
Mon and Fri, 5.45–6.45pm;
Sat and Sun, 11.15am–1pm,
and 1.30–2.30pm
Prime Time for over 50s:
Mon, 12–1pm;
Wed, 11.30–12.30pm
Water Workout: Tue and Fri, 12–1pm
Slimming World: Thurs, 12–1pm
☎ 01865 467040

OLDER PEOPLE

■ **Prime Time Over 50s group**
Wednesdays, 10.30am–3.30pm, at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road (£2). Keep fit, bingo, indoor bowls, speakers, activities and trips.
☎ 07534 740589

■ **Golden Circle**
☎ Mrs S Williams, 01865 770626
and 07748 999522

■ **Silver Circle**
☎ 435954

■ **Monday & Friday Lunch Club**
Frys Court, 2 Nightingale Avenue,
OX4 7WJ.
☎ Anne Appleton, 422231

■ **Friendleys Coffee, Cake & Chat**
Wednesdays, 10.30am–1pm
Jack Argent Room, BBL Community Centre, £2
☎ 07810 047819

■ **Over 60s Bingo Club**
Wednesdays 1–3pm
Blackbird Leys Bowls Club
☎ David Stonehill 01865 777074
or Anne Ranger 01865 430504

The Clockhouse
see box on opposite page

WELLBEING

■ **Skiptrix Fitness Class**
Get fit, tone and lose weight.
Thursdays, 6.30–7.15pm at the Ark T Centre, Cowley.
Satudays, 10–10.45am at the Barn, BBLeys. £4 per class.
☎ Trish, 07957754355
trishwisdom@yahoo.co.uk

■ **Yoga For All**
Experienced Yoga teacher.
☎ Linda Highland, 01865 432570

■ **ZUMBA Fitness Party**
Tues, 6.30–7.30pm at The Oxford Academy School, Sandy Lane West.
☎ 07714 248177 zumbasarahoxford@gmail.com www.zumbasarahoxford.com

■ **The Listening Centre**
Counselling service based at Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre.
☎ 01865 794794

■ **Oxfordshire Mind**
Short courses, groups and other support are available for anyone with a mental health problem. To find out more drop in to the Cowley Wellbeing Centre in St James' Hall, 26 Between Towns Road.
☎ 01865 247788

■ **Tai Chi & Qigong**
Class every Thursday morning 9.45–10.45am. Ark T Centre, Crowell Road, Cowley. £5 and £6. First class half price.
☎ 07974185554

■ **Rosewood Club for people with dementia**
Open weekdays, 9.30am–3pm. Providing a stimulating, enjoyable and social day while your family carer gets a well-earned break. £12 per day all inclusive, plus a transport charge if used.
☎ To arrange an informal visit call Julie Perks 749349 or email rosewood@daybreak-oxford.org.uk

■ **Survivors**
Fridays and Saturdays, Blackbird Leys Community Centre, 9.30am–3pm.
A self-help group of people who use or have used Mental Health Services, working together to get support or to share experiences. Lunch available for £1.
☎ 07729 581975

NOTICES

Socialist Party Meeting
Last Tuesday of every month at Leys Links Centre, Blackbird Leys Road.
Starts 7.30pm
☎ 0208 9888777

The Leys WI
Meets the first Wednesday of each month, 7.30–9.30pm, at The Clockhouse.
☎ Sue, 07786158229
E: theleyswi@yahoo.co.uk

Leys Community Market

Leys Community Market will not be trading in February.

Community Lunch

All friends, stallholders, customers and volunteers of the market are invited to a community lunch on Saturday 28 February

For more details or to book a place please contact leyscommunitymarket@yahoo.com or Christine 07914395619

The Clockhouse Community Centre

Our sessions are either low-cost or free, and all Leys over 50s are very welcome!

WELCOME EVENTS FOR LOCAL OVER-50s
New to the Leys CDI Clockhouse Project? Meet others at these FREE, friendly socials. Please tel: 01865 395908 for date and details of our next Welcome Social.

BRING-AND-SHARE LUNCHES FOR LOCAL OVER-50s
Bring a bit of food or drink to share at these FREE, friendly buffet lunches. Meet others, have a chat and make new friends. Two lunches this month: Monday 9 March, 12.30 to 1.30 pm, "The future of the Clockhouse Project". Monday 23 March, 12 noon to 1.30 pm, "Fire Safety". Talk by Ayesha Siddika from the Fire and Rescue Service.

ROSEWOOD CLUB
Fun, sociable and stimulating days for people with dementia, and a break for their carers. £12 a day includes a hot two-course meal, and beverages. Transport (if required) is an extra £5 per day. Open each weekday.
For more details or to book an initial visit, Tel: 749349 or email: rosewood@daybreak-oxford.org.uk

OVER-50s ADVICE
FREE monthly, confidential, advice at the Clockhouse (benefits, debt, housing, consumer issues), with an adviser from Agnes Smith Advice Centre. Next one: Monday 30 March. Appointments: 10 am till 12 noon, drop-in: 12-12.30 pm.
To book an appointment tel: 395908.

NEW! MONDAY TEA-TIME SOCIAL FOR OVER 50s
New tea-time social club for a friendly cup of tea and a chat. Scrabble and dominoes available if you feel like a game, or just have a good old chin-wag. Every Monday (except 30 March – Easter break) 1.30 to 3.30 pm. £1.

DANCE FOR OVER 50s
Move around the floor, dance seated, or just watch and enjoy! NO partner or experience needed. Monday 2 March: LINE DANCE , 11 am to 12 noon. £2.

YOGA FOR OVER 50s
Seated/standing exercise, and relaxation. Beginners welcome. Every Tuesday, 10 to 11 am (except 31 March – Easter break). £2.
FREE SEATED YOGA TASTER SESSION – Thursday 19 March 2 pm, Potters Court, Robin Place, Greater Leys OX4 7FF.

SINGING FOR FUN for OVER 50s.
Every Tuesday (except 31 March – Easter break), 1.30 to 3.30 pm.
This group is currently full, tel: 395908 to go on the waiting list.

CRAFTS GROUP FOR OVER 50S
Bring your own knitting, crochet, papercraft, or sewing. Wednesdays, 11 am to 12.30 pm. £1.

TAI CHI FOR OVER 50s
Seated/standing exercise to help you get more supple, and boost energy. Thursday mornings, 10–11 am. £2.

GARDENING CLUB
Monthly meeting of SLIGO (Senior Leys Independent Gardening Organisation). Adults of ALL ages welcome. You don't have to be an active gardener. Next meeting: Thursday 5 March: "Bedding Plants" – Talk by Gerry Webb - 2-4 pm. Tel: 01865 395908.

ART GROUP FOR OVER-50s
Beginners welcome. Meeting every other Thursday 2-4 pm at Potters Court, Robin Place, Greater Leys OX4 7FF. £1 includes art materials and refreshments. Tel: 395908. 12 March and 26 March: Tips and Help on Drawing/Sketching – or you're welcome to "do your own thing" with watercolours/acrylic.

COMPUTER COURSES FOR OVER-50s
Learn at your own pace with the Clockhouse IT Project Group. Complete beginners welcome. £1 a session.
You need to book. Tel: 07951149724 (Jimmy), or 07962887379 (Gerry).

EVENING SOCIALS
Join Clockhouse Activity Nights Group! Adults of all ages welcome. £2. Next meeting: Charlston Dance on Wednesday 18 March, 7-9 pm. Great fun! Tel: 01865 395908.

COMMUNITY GARDENING FOR VOLUNTEERS
Adult volunteers of all ages needed, to help keep the Clockhouse garden looking beautiful in every season. Enjoy fresh air and good company, while doing something really positive for your local community. Tel: 395908.

Long Ground, Greater Leys, OX4 7FX (look for the clocks on the roof) ☎ **01865 395908** **E: clockhousecdi@btconnect.com**

LOCAL CHURCHES

■ **Church of the Holy Family**
Eucharist: Each Sunday, 10am, with children's activities.
Timeout: Reflective worship. Most Sundays, 6.30pm.
Church Office Hour: Mondays (except bank holidays) at 6.30– 7.30pm. For enquiries, hall bookings, wedding arrangements.
☎ Revd Heather Carter, 01865 778728 and Rev Adam Stevenson, 01865 714163
www.holyfamilybbl.co.uk

■ **Redeem Christian Church of God**
Meets at the Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road.
Sunday Service: 3–6pm
Bible study on Fridays: 7–8pm, except last Friday of month.
☎ 07825 679044 and 01865 766056
www.RCCGLighthouse.co.uk

■ **Leys Community Church**
Meets on Sunday, 11am at the Oxford Academy, Beecroft Room (includes special activities for children and young people).
☎ Andy and Nicci Longmore, 01865 779700,
www.leyscommunitychurch.org.uk

■ **Chrisco Ministries**
Meets at Jack Agent Room at the BBL Community Centre, Sundays, 11am–2pm
☎ 07533 845714 and 07737 564677

■ **Sacred Heart Catholic Church**
Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys.
Sunday Masses: 9.30am, with music and children's liturgy; and at 6pm.
☎ 01865 776903

■ **Christian Harvest Ministries**
Meets at the Jack Argent Room at BBL Community Centre, Sundays, 3–5.30pm.
☎ Rev Alice Kinyanjui, 01865 701129

■ **Seventh Day Adventist Church**
1A Chester St, off Iffley Road.
Saturday first service: 9.45–11am.
Second service: 11.15am–12.30pm.
www.freebible.org.uk

■ **Mount Zion Ministries Oxford**
Glow Hall, Blackbird Leys Community Centre.
Sunday Service: 11am–1.30pm.
All night prayers: Fridays, 7–9pm.
Bible Study: Sundays, 11am–12pm.
☎ Rev Chris Ugwu, 07877 536406, 07932 964056 and 07877 054600
Email: mtzionoxford@yahoo.co.uk
www.mtzionox.org

■ **Kingsway International Christian Centre (Oxford branch)**
Sunday service: 11am–1pm, children's church runs concurrently.
Friday Prayer Meeting: 6–7pm.
The Barn, Nightingale Avenue, Greater Leys, Oxford OX4 7BU.
☎ 07951262426
admin@kiccoxford.org.uk
www.kiccoxford.org.uk

YOUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

■ PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Gordon Roper. **Vice Chair:** Mrs Ann Booker.
Non-position holders: Chris Hatton, Daniel Jones, Jadine-Francis Kennedy, Brian Lester, Cyril Martin, Mrs Sheila Smith, Pat Stannard.

For further details telephone 07754 271831 (9am–5pm, Monday to Friday). Send mail to Parish Council, c/o Nicky Clargo, 181 Wroslyn Road, Freeland, Witney, Oxon OX29 8AL.

Also check leysonline.net to find out about Parish Council Meetings.

■ OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

BLACKBIRD LEYS WARD
Linda Smith – *Labour.* 125 Oxford Road, Old Marston, Oxford, OX3 0RB
☎ 07961 121704 **E:** cllrlsmith@oxford.gov.uk
Rae Humberstone – Labour. 75 Little Bury, Greater Leys, Oxford, OX4 7UZ
☎ 01865 779678 Mobile: 07768 429566
E: cllrrhumberstone@oxford.gov.uk

NORTHFIELD BROOK WARD
Sian Taylor – *Labour.* 5 Regent Street, Oxford, OX4 1QU
☎ 07767 311425 **E:** cllrstaylor@oxford.gov.uk
Scott Seamons – *Labour.* 24 Partridge Walk, Greater Leys, Oxford, OX4 7BZ
☎ 01865 802350 **E:** cllrsseamons@oxford.gov.uk

■ OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

LEYS DIVISION
Steve Curran – *Labour.* 88 Fairacres Road, Oxford, OX4 1TG
☎ 01865 727824 Mobile: 07941 785538
E: stephen.curran@oxfordshire.gov.uk

■ MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

■ **Andrew Smith** —*Labour.* Unit A, Bishops Mews, Transport Way, Oxford.
☎ 01865 595790 **E:** andrewsmith.mp@virgin.net
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Rovers march on

BY STUART PARSONS

BLACKBIRD Rovers march on into the semi finals of the OFA John Fathers Junior Shield after a 4-2 win over Ducklington.

Rovers should have taken the lead 30 seconds into the game when Rovers young rising star Yassine Lamzini was bought down just inside Ducklington's penalty area. Joe Cook stepped up to take it, only to smash the ball against the bar.

However Rovers took the lead through teenager Lamzini. The 17-year-old drilled home a low shot across goal from the edge of the 18 yard box to put his side ahead.

Rovers continued to push for another goal, to no avail and Ducklington caught them on the break and Josh Hartley capitalised as he slotted the ball past injured Rover's keeper Craig Evans to bring the scores level.

This made it more of a game and both had their share of the ball, with Rovers just edging it in the possession stakes. Unfortunately another bright young talent, Josh West had to come off early due to the effects of a previous injury.

However he was replaced by another promising 17-year-old, Callum Bloomfield causing a slight shuffle in personnel with Jerome McCalmon moving into a more familiar centre midfield role with Craig Bloomfield and Luke Bremner.

David Jenning's quick feet and Aaron Barrett's pace was causing Ducklington's defence loads of problems backed up by the industrious work from the five in midfield the Oxford side were beginning to take control of the game however the score remained 1-1 at half time.

Early in the second half a failed clearance landed at the feet of Jack Morton who placed the ball past Evans to make it 2-1 against the run of play. Rovers now needed to dig deep, which they did and they went straight at Ducklington again showing great character.

Nick Andrews, Callum Bloomfield and Mike Steers tightened it up at the back and began to spray the ball across the back looking to open up gaps in Ducklington's midfield to pass through to their own midfield.

The hard work paid off when Rovers forced a corner that was headed home by Bremner. This spurred his side on and only minutes later he scored again when he smashed home a long-range effort straight through the arms of Ducklington's keeper, and manager Ashley Edwards.

Now at 3-2 Rovers team spirit was lifted by ten fold, and now they went for Ducklington's jugular and threw everything at them and captain, McCalmon sealed the win when he went past Gary Simmons and Luke Woodley and tucked it past the rooted Edwards making it 4-2.

Ryan Coles came on to replace David Jennings but by this time the game was dead and buried anyway. Rovers now face the winners of the Steeple Aston and Hailey quarter finals.

Blackbird Rovers are a newly formed side that's run by Adam Taylor and Wayne Cooper and they play in the Oxford City FA League. They are currently unbeaten in all competitions and are sitting pretty at the top of their league, with maximum points and a plus goal difference of 52, and are now in three semi finals.

■ **For information of fixtures go to http://tinyurl.com/BBLrovers1415**

Poor pitch provides comedy moments

IFFLEY Harriers played host to The Blackbird F.C at Horspath Athletics Track in the UTVL Premier Division on a pitch that looked more like a swamp than a playing surface.

Iffley Harriers started brightly, adapting to the slippery surface much quicker than their opponents and took the lead when Dominic Tolputt put a low shot across goal and into the bottom corner.

It was a short-lived lead however as Kieran Davis was awarded a free kick about 30 yards out by the touch line. He whipped the ball in towards the back post and the ball went straight in.

The pitch was proving to be a real leveller and providing plenty of comedy moments as players struggled to keep hold of the ball and their balance. With both teams struggling to keep the ball due to the conditions the score remained 1-1 at half time.

The second half proved to be a different matter and The Blackbirds took control of the possession. Carly Bloomfield accompanied his younger brother Callum as part of a defensive trio along with Julian McCalmon and they were where the Blackbirds rock at the back and where the play started from as they casually held onto the ball and knocking the ball about across the pitch.

The elder Bloomfield, Craig was in centre midfield with Liam O'Callaghan and veteran Chris Fontaine and this is where The Blackbird's were hurting the Harriers the most with Bloomfield and O'Callaghan's work rate proving too much for their opposition.

With Triston Lawrence and Yassine Lamzini working up and down their respective wings The Blackbird's were trying to involve them as much as possible to try and utilise the better playing surface available on the wings of the pitch. Kieran Davis and Marlon James were making nuisances of themselves up front and the Harriers were struggling to contain them.

Eventually Iffley buckled under the pressure and as teenager Lamzini dribbled the ball into the box and was bought down. Up stepped Fontaine who coolly placed the ball into the bottom corner to put his side ahead.

This caused Iffley to crumble and The Blackbird's went on a goal frenzy. James juggled the ball dinking it over two of Harriers' defenders before slamming the ball past the rooted Iffley keeper. Next up was youngster Lamzini who put his side 4-1 up with an acrobatic over head volley. Captain, O'Callaghan scored the final goal after bursting through into the box he went past two of his opponents and placed the ball in to the near post.

The Blackbird's maintained their four goal advantage and the game ended 5-1.

The Blackbird now face Northway Boys and Girls next in the Hedley Toms Group C, their third game against each other in four weeks.

The Blackbird F.C are a newly formed team that was founded by Chris Fontaine, Julian McCalmon and Stuart Parsons and started playing in the Critchleys Upper Thames Valley League in the 2014-15 season.

This is the first ever side to be named after The Blackbird Pub and are sponsored by S.J.M Motor Repairs, owned by local mechanic Sam Mitchell.

The Blackbird side is made up of local residents from 17 year olds to players that are 50 plus and was set up to introduce young players into the Sunday game and get some old veterans out of retirement and back playing the game.

The Blackbirds play their home games on Blackbird Leys Field and you can find information about their fixtures, other match reports, etc at www.utvl.org.

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Call us on 01865 806453
or drop in and see us in Blackbird Leys Community Centre

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